

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2578

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - ADD TAGS AND SUBJECT

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT CY

SUBJECT: ATROCITY ATMOSPHERICS

1. TURK CYPRIOT PRESS CONTINUING RUN DAILY ACCOUNTS OF ALLEGED ATROCITIES COMMITTED IN GREEK CONTROLLED AREAS. LATEST CASE REPORTED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN LARNACA DISTRICT, WHERE GREEK FORCES ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE SLAUGHTERED 45-50 TURKISH VILLAGERS. THUS FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO INDEPENDENT VARIFICATION OF ANY LARGE SCALE ATROCITIES. REPORTERS HAVE BEEN SHOWN INDIVIDUAL BODIES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN BUT THERE NO MEANS DETERMINING CAUSE OF DEATH OR PRECISE CIRCUM-STANCE UNDER WHICH THIS OCCURRED. (UNFICYP HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED RETURN ALOA VILLAGE NEAR FAMAGUSTA TO CONDUCT EXPERT EXAMINATION OF BODIES UNEARTHED.)

2. DESPITE THIS, THERE NO DOUBT THAT VIRTUALLY ALL TURK CYPRIOTS ACCEPT STORIES AS FACT. THOSE OF OUR CONTACTS WHO HAVE NOT HEARD FROM RELATIVES LOCATED OUTSIDE TURKISH AREA OF CONTROL ASSUME
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THEM DEAD. ALL BELIEVE TURK CYPRIOT PRISONERS IN GRAVE DANGER.

THERE IS GROWING PUBLIC PRESSURE TO RESCUE PRISONERS AND
LINK UP WITH REMAINING ENCLAVES.

3. WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE TO WHAT EXTENT THE ATROCITY STORIES
ARE TRUE OR TO WHAT EXTENT THEY ARE BEING FABRICATED AS POSSIBLE
JUSTIFICATION FOR FURTHER MOVES BY TURKISH ARMY. (ALSO POSSIBLE
THESE ACCOUNTS INTENDED DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM TURKISH
TRANSGRESSIONS.) SEVERAL HIGH PLACED TURK CYPRIOT OFFICIALS, WHO
ARE IN CONTACT WITH MAINLAND MILITARY COMMAND, HAVE TOLD US TIME
IS "NEAR TO "TEACH GREEKS ANOTHER LESSON". ONE TCPA MEMBER
CLAIMS MAINLAND COMMANDER TOLD EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HE WOULD MOVE ON
LIMASSOL, REGARDLESS OF ANKARA'S ORDERS, IF FURTHER EVIDENCE OF
GREEK ATROCITIES COMES TO LIGHT. (MEMBER LATER QUALIFIED THIS BY
SAYING IT MUST BE "FRESH" ATROCITY, COMMITTED AFTER CEASE-FIRE.)

4. COMMENT: ALL OF ABOVE MAY BE NOTHING MORE THAN PSYCH WAR.
NEVERTHELESS, TURK CYPRIOTS APPEAR TO BE GIRDING THEMSELVES UP
FOR FURTHER ACTION AND ATMOSPHERE, WHICH HAD BECOME RELATIVELY
RELAXED, NOW VERY TENSE. EQUALLY DISTURBING, ATROCITY STORIES
SEEM TO BE GIVEN NEAR COMPLETE CREDENCE BY TURKISH COMMANDERS
ON GROUND. THIS COULD ENCOURAGE THEM TAKE INDEPENDENT ACTION; IT
WILL UNDOUBTABLY CAUSE THEM EXERT PRESSURE ON SUPERIORS TO UNLEASH
THEIR FORCES. BROWN

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